

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A guide support for a bending machine (1) comprising a framework (2), a bending head (3), a bending arm (4), a bending roller (9), a clamping jaw (12) for the bending of a tube [(5)], [[and]] sliding means (15, 16) for the displacement of the bending head (3) in horizontal and vertical directions with respect to the framework (2), ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ at least two guides (28, 29) [[whose]] carried on a guide element (21) and including recesses (30, 31) [[are]] arranged in opposite directions with respect to the position of the tube [(5)], ~~for bending and of the guiding and displacement means (18, 19, 23, 24) [[of]]~~ for the guides (28, 29) the guide element (21) on the bending head (3), the guide element (21) being guided in a horizontal translation motion on a plate (17) securely fastened to the bending head (3), the guiding means (18, 19, 23, 24) being positioned adjacent a first surface (22) of the element (21), and the at least two guides (28, 29) being arranged parallel to each other adjacent a second, opposite surface (25) of the element (21).

Appl. No. 10/518,359

2. (currently amended) A guide support in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises an~~ wherein the guide element (21) ~~guided in a horizontal translation motion on a plate (17) securely fastened to the bending head (3) and comprising on the opposite side of the guiding means (18, 19, 23, 24)~~ includes rails (26, 27) on the second opposite surface (25), each of which interacts with each of the at least two guides (28, 29) ~~arranged parallel to each other.~~

3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) A guide support in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide (28) ~~comprises~~ includes a recess (30) ~~[[whose]]~~ having an internal profile ~~depends on that of~~ corresponding to an outer profile of the tube ~~[[(5)]]~~ for holding the tube as the tube is to be held during its bending between ~~[[the]]~~ jaws (10, 13) of the clamping jaw (12).

5. (currently amended) A guide support in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide (29) ~~(28)~~ ~~comprises~~ includes a recess (31) ~~[[whose]]~~ having an internal profile ~~depends on that of~~ corresponding to an outer profile of the tube ~~[[(5)]]~~ for holding the tube as the tube is to be held during its

Appl. No. 10/518,359

bending between [[the]] jaws (11, 14) of the clamping jaw (12).

6. (currently amended) A guide support in accordance with claim [[3]] 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the guides (28, 29) interacts with the rails (26, 27) [[in]] such ~~a fashion~~ that their representative recess (30, 31) is positioned in [[the]] opposite directions with respect to [[the]] a horizontal axis of [[the]] a machine (1) embodied by the tube [[(5)]].

7. (currently amended) A guide support in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein inverted positions of the guides (28, 29) ~~allows the~~ allow ~~carrying out on the same bending machine (1)~~ either a bending to the left, or counterclockwise, or to the right, or clockwise on a single bending machine (1).